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REMARKS

The foregoing amendment cancels Claims 1, 34, 38, amends Claims 2-7, 9, 10, 12-19, 21, 24-30, 32, 33, 35-37, 39-40, and 44 and adds Claims 47-49. Upon entry of the amendment, Claims 2-33, 35-37, 39-44, and 47-49 are pending in the application, with Claims 47, 48 and 49 being independent claims.

Korhammer and Fisher Do Not, Either Singularly or in Combination, Describe the Use of a Class of Items

The Examiner previously rejected the pending claims relying primarily on U.S. Patent No. 6,278,982 to *Korhammer et al.* ("*Korhammer*") and U.S. Patent No. 5,835,896 to *Fisher et al.* ("*Fisher*"). *Korhammer* describes a securities trading system that presents a user with a single interface for viewing and analyzing security market information and conducting security transactions with multiple securities trading systems. See Abstract. The securities trading system requires that a user specify a particular security using a stock symbol. For example, Figure 8 illustrates that use of "DELL", the stock symbol for Dell Computer Corp. Column 10, lines 3-7.

The foregoing amendment clarifies that the present invention supports classes of items and keywords so that a user can specify a class of items or a keyword rather than a specific item. *Korhammer* does not allow a user to specify a class of items or use keywords. A user is only permitted to specify a particular security, typically by entering its stock symbol. Thus, *Korhammer*, does not describe the invention recited by independent Claims 47, 48 and 49.

There is no suggestion that the securities trading system described by *Korhammer* could be extended to allow a user to specify a class of items or a

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keyword. Securities are not interchangeable and the sale or purchase of securities is specific to a particular security.

The cited sections of *Fisher* describe the operation of an auction manager for an electronic auction. In particular, the cited sections describe the calculation of the current high bidder, the opening and closing of auctions, and bid validation. Although *Fisher* describes that an index of available merchandise is maintained, no details of the index are provided. Column 7, lines 39-40. Regardless of the details of the index, *Fisher* does not suggest that an auction can operate using classes or keywords. The auction system described by *Fisher* does not allow a user to specify a class of items or a keyword and does not describe collecting information based on a class or a keyword.

There is no motivation to combine *Korhammer* and *Fisher* in the manner suggested by the Examiner. *Fisher* describes only a single auction site. *Fisher* does not describe aggregating information from multiple auction sites. In contrast, *Korhammer* describes a securities trading system that consolidates information from multiple securities systems. There is no suggestion in *Fisher* that an auction could be conducted over multiple sites or any description of how the auction manager described by *Fisher* would operate over multiple sites. Thus, there is no motivation to combine *Korhammer* and *Fisher*. Even if the references are combined, the combination does not describe the use of classes of items or keywords.

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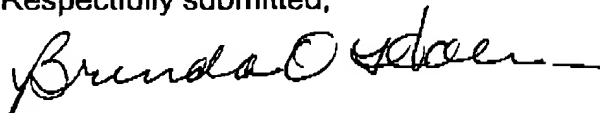
INTERVIEW SUMMARY

On February 7, 2005, a telephone interview was conducted by Examiner Colbert and the undersigned. The distinctions between the cited references and the claimed invention were discussed, as well as possible claim amendments. No agreement was reached.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are allowable and a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. If there are any issues that can be resolved via a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Brenda Holmes at 404.685.6799.

Respectfully submitted,



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